

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, March 6. 1707.

I Thought to have come nearer home in this Paper, Matters here preparing Subject enough to remark in the happy Prospect of the great Affair, which now depends between the two Nations, and which draws near a Conclusion—— But give me leave to make a Trip to *Poland* first, and view what Work is cut out there again for the King of *Sweden*.

I confess, the mock Kings, that poor Country has been plagued with for these 5 Years past, have been such a Pageantry of State, and such a Tragedy of Mischiefs, that 'tis enough to give that Nation a Surfeit of Kings, and an Aversion to the very Name.

Augustus their late King, and present Elector of *Saxony*, a Prince of the greatest Character and growing Reputation in *Europe* of his Age, one of the most wealthy

and powerful Princes of *Germany*, has made a very unhappy Attempt on this Kingdom, and having to do with a faithless People, a mercenary Nobility, an uncertain Confederate, I mean the *Czar*, with cowardly and untractable Auxiliaries, tho' he on all Occasions fought with the greatest Bravery and Conduct, yet found himself under such Disadvantages, and so much over-power'd by the *Swede*, a powerful, warlike Nation, and led by a young daring and fiery Monarch; that in short, like a Man of Prudence, as well as Bravery, he threw up the lost Game, submitted to the Necessity, and tho' Providence gave him a Victory just at the Conclusion, to solve his Reputation as a Soldier, yet he has wisely thought fit to listen to the Cries of his ruin'd Country, and quit the Bauble of a Crown not worth keeping.

And

And now the Swedish-made Monarch *Stawislaus*, if he deserves the Name, who is as it were a Foot-boy King, a Dependent on his King-making Ally the *Swede*——This King, I say, one would have thought, should unenvied, have enjoy'd that Crown, or if oppos'd by the *Muscovite*, it should be so faintly and so remote, that it should have been of no great Uneasiness to him, nor be able to divert the *Swede* from new Attempts, which the rest of the World has not been without just Apprehensions of.

But *Poland's* Troubles are not yet like to find a Period; and that miserable Nation is now like to be in more Confusions, than ever before: For now we are told, that the Nobility of *Poland*, who before supported King *Augustus*, or rather were supported by him, being left a little too nakedly to the Mercy of the *Swedes*, and made thereby desperate—Fly out into new Extremes, and being back'd by the *Muscovite* Power, resolve to set up for themselves; and disowning the *Swedes* or their sham King, have Elected the Crown-General to be their King.

And now the War in *Poland* is like to be as fierce as ever it was, and the *Swede* may perhaps find more Work there now, than he did before.

I know, some People talk of this as an easie Affair, that the *Muscovites* are sorry Fellows, and cannot look the *Swedes* in the Face; that 20000 *Swedes* beat 150000 of them at the Battle at *Narva*, and that therefore this is not to be imagin'd to be any Diversion to the *Swedes*.

But shall I take upon me to tell such People, what perhaps at first may seem strange to most, that shall read this Paper, viz. That if this War goes on, the *Muscovite* shall have the better of the *Swedes* in it, and that, tho' they are always beaten.

To make out this Paradox, I must enter into a few Particulars, which deserve Note.

1. I am to note, that it is well worth the Czar of *Muscovy's* while to keep the *Swede* employ'd in *Poland*; for that having taken *Narva* from him, fortified and built Ports, Harbours and Magazines of Naval Stores

on the *Baltick*, he is strengthening himself there, while the Enemy is busied in *Poland*, prosecuting a fruitless War to do himself very little good; and this consider'd, he can afford to lose now and then a small Skirmish with ten thousand Men's Lives, or so, things he cares very little for, and do himself no Harm.

2. He is able to tyre the *Swede* out in this War, and can carry it on at less than half the Expence; his Country lying all on the Back of *Poland*, and adjoining to it; whereas the King of *Sweden* is remote, and must have all his Recruits, Magazines, &c. from *Swedeland* by Sea, and then a long way by Land to his Army.

But say now, the *Swede* shall march into *Poland*, and this new King fights him, and is beaten, as 'tis ten to one but he shall if he fights——What is the Consequence? Away they fly to the Czar of *Muscovy* for Refuge; as soon as ever the *Swede* turns but his Back, the Czar of *Muscovy* lends them 20 or 30000 Men again, which is nothing with him, and they fall in upon the Country again, and carry all before them, and then the *Swede* is fetch'd back again for Help—When he comes, the *Muscovites* are beaten again, and run away again as before—And what then? They shall do this every Year, and unless the King of *Sweden* could live in *Poland* all this Time, he could never avoid it. The Numbers and Neighbourhood of the *Muscovite* shall certainly have this Issue at last, and the War seems without End there, unless the *Swede* please to give it over first.

If any Man shall say, the *Swedes* and *Poles* may follow them into *Muscovy*, conquer it, dethrone the Czar, and reduce all that side of the World. I shall presume, without examining too far into the Persons, to tell them, 'tis a sign they do not know the Country, how distant, how desolate, and how secur'd by its own Poverty, from any of those Mischiefs that attend great Armies.

After therefore they have consider'd the Difficulties of following a flying Enemy into a Wilderness, not worth conquering, thro' unpassable Woods of vast Extent, wild Deserts, and uninhabited Waits, where all their

their Provisions must be brought to them at a long Distance, and excessive Charge, and thro' a thousand Dangers; when they have consider'd this, I say, they'll no more wonder, that the victorious Swedes never pierced far into the Czar's Country; for who would ruin a brave Soldiery, and a disciplin'd Army in fighting against Nature, struggling with Hunger, Cold, and insuperable Difficulties?

On this Account it is that I say, the *Muscovites* must at the End have the Advantage in this War, and tho' they were beaten in the Field every Year, yet an obstinate Nation, in their Circumstances, and with their Advantages, must at last have the better, and must oblige their Enemy to desist.

If this be true, *Poland* has but a very indifferent Prospect of the Settlement of her Country, and the poor People deserve Commiseration, as much as any Nation in the World.

The new King was their General before and has, it seems, the Hearts of the Soldiery; and tho' he be not as wealthy as the *Saxon*, yet if the Czar of *Muscovy* supplies him, he may be able to maintain himself, better than the other could, who was rather prey'd upon by the *Poles*, than assisted by them.

Upon the whole, the King of *Sweden* has thus cut himself out a fine Piece of Work, and the Czar of *Muscovy* in my Opinion ought to be taken into the grand Confederacy; for that this Way he may be likely to employ the Arms of that Prince in a Manner unexpected, and give the Confederates Time to push on the other Advantages they have before them, till they shall be out of Danger and out of Fear of him; and perhaps have Time to ask him, what Business he has in the Empire?

MISCELLANEA.

I Have employ'd this Part of my Work for some time, if possible, to prevent the Ruin and Destruction both of our Trade and People, from the projected Schemes of those, who, mistaken in their Measures or Designs, I shall not determine which, pretend to serve for both; and I have insisted particularly on the great Benefit of the Part of Inland Trade, which I call *Circulation*.

Now I cannot but make a short Exception here as I go, and that is, that I hope, I shall not be understood to mean, that no better Regulations can be made for the Settlement and Employment of the Poor, than are already; or that on the other hand all the Gentlemen, who are contriving Ways and Means for that End, are willing to get rid of their Poor at the Price of a National Ruin; I willingly recognize the Charity and Christian Consideration of those worthy Gentlemen, that in their meer Concern for the Poor are brought into these Measures, however mistaken they may be in their Consequences, and I only humbly offer

my Sense of the Matter for their farther Illumination.

If therefore these Gentlemen would demand of the Projectors of these Schemes, that they should find out some new Trade, some new Market where the Goods they make shall be sold, where none of the same Goods were sold before; if they will send them to any Place, where they shall not interfere with the rest of the Manufacture, or with some other made in *England*, then indeed they will do something worthy of themselves, and may employ the Poor to the same glorious Advantage, as Queen *Elizabeth* did, to whom this Nation as a Trading Country owes its peculiar Greatness.

1. If they could establish a Trade to *China* for *English* broad Cloth and Serges, or obtain an Order from the Czar of *Muscovy*, that all his Subjects should wear *English* Stockings, they might then set all the Army of Vagrants to work, that now stroul about and live upon the Spoil of the Country; and every poor Child's Labour in spinning and knitting